XLIX.

THE

Execution, last Speeches & Confessions,

OF THE

Thirteen Prisoners

That suffered on Friday the 24th of *October*, 1679.

VIZ.

Christian Woodward, Burnt at a Stake in *Smithfield* for TREASON, for Clipping of Money.

And Twelve hang'd at *TYBURN*,

whose Names and Offences were as follow.

Stephen Pushworth,---For Burglary.

Tho. Hudson, ------- Drawn thither on a Sled for Clipping.

Thomas French, and *John Hurst*, } For Robberies on the Highway.

Edward Jarvis, *James Marmaduke*, *Thomasin Moore*, *Charles Michenor*, *Isaac Whitacre*, and *Charles Pain*, } For breaking open Houses.

George Buttler, ----- For Horse-stealing.

Thomas Dod, -------- An old notorious Offender.

THE last Sessions was very remarkable for the great number of Criminals that there received Sentence of Death, there being no fewer than Two and thirty in all that were there condemn'd (though by a Mistake in the printed Narrative, it was said but Thirty one:) But as all penal Laws

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are designed not for Cruelty, but amendment of Manners, *ut Pœna ad paucos Terror ad omnes perveniat*, that by due Punishments inflicted on a few, all being terrified, may desist from ill Practices, so here his most gracious Majesties indulgent Mercy was pleased to extend it self to several of these wretched Malefactors, from whom there might be any hopes of future Reformation.

The poor Creature tryed for killing of her Bastard-childe, in consideration of all Circumstances, and that she was convicted onely upon the severity of the Statute, obtained a Reprieve. So likewise did the two men and one woman about killing the Bayliff in *Dutchy-lane*; and the two women and one man touching the death of the Bayliff at *Westminster*; and several others. As to the rest, we shall give you here some account of their Behaviour after Sentence, and at the place of Execution.

Mr. Ordinary, according to his usual care, and the grand importance of his place, was not wanting to improve the short time the Prisoners had allowed them in this world, for their spiritual advantage of their Souls. He preacht very elaborately, and searchingly to their Consciences, on the Lords day, and was frequently with them in Prayer; and according to his prudent method, fail'd not to examine each of them apart concerning their hopes of a future happy State, and on what solid grounds the same were bottom'd. He found them generally lamentably ignorant of the Principles of Religion, as if they had been born in *Africk*, and bred up amongst the Savages of *America*, rather than in *England*, that *Goshen* of *Gospel-Light*. But he endeavoured with his utmost pains, both to inform their *Understandings* of the mysteries of Salvation, and perswade their stubborn *Wills* to submit to the Yoak of Christ, and accept of him upon his own Evangelical Terms.

As for *Thomas French*, he was a Person that had good Friends; and undoubtedly was Master of a great stock of Courage, had he employed it honourably in the service of his Prince, or in lawful Cases. When he found the Mediation of his friends ineffectual, the greatness of his Spirit and emotions of his Minde, struck him into a violent Feaver, so that he was forc'd to keep his Bed, and was not able to attend the publique Exercises of Devotion; yet the Ordinary charitably visited him and gave him all the assistance he could. As he confessed the Indictments at the Bar, so he now acknowledged, That he had long followed the mischievous practice of Padding on the Road; That he was drawn into it by ill Company, and a loose dissolute Life.

John Hurst, the other Highway-man, had formerly been condemned at *Alisbury* in the County of *Bucks*, but now was fallen into

into his old wicked Courſes again. He ſeem'd not to be much regardful of his Condition, but firſt fed himſelf with hopes of Reprieve, and at laſt ſeem'd too much indifferent concerning his future State.

Edward Jarvis was convicted upon two Indictments; and beſides, had been formerly concerned in Felonious attempts and received Favour.

John Martin and *Tho. Dod*, ſeemed to outward appearance, the moſt penitent of all the company. They much bewail'd their former Ill-ſpent time, and were very frequently and fervently in Prayer for pardon and forgiveneſs for all their Sins, which they freely acknowledged to be moſt horrid in quality, and Innumerable in number.

George Butler was now convicted for ſtealing of an Horſe; but he had been burnt in the hand before, and not long ſince broke Priſon at *Chelmsford* in *Eſſex*; and ſo could expect no further mercy.

Charles Michener and *Iſaac Whitacre*, were Partners in Iniquity, and had broken up a Gentlewomans houſe at *Baſingſtoke* in *Hampſhire*, and took thence a great quantity of Plate and Money; of which, the latter they had ſpent, the former was found with them when they were apprehended on another occaſion by an honeſt *Thief-taker* at *Wapping*; who ſeeing ſo much old-faſhion'd Plate in their cuſtody, concluded they had robb'd ſome Church; but preſſing them with much importunity, he prevailed with them to confeſs where they had it, and ſent the Owner notice in a Letter; who now came up and convicted them. They were old hardened Thieves, and behaved themſelves very audaciouſly.

It was a very ſad thing to hear, the night before they ſuffered, when the Bell-man, according to cuſtom, came to give them notice that they were to die the next morning, what diſmal Cries and Lamentations they made; yet 'tis fear'd, for the moſt part, not ſo much out of any due ſenſe of their ſins, as of the juſt puniſhment that was approaching. Though three or four of them appeared more ſerious, and with abundance of Tears acknowledged the guilt of their former wicked lives, begging heartily Forgiveneſs of God, and all thoſe that they had injured by their villainous and pernicious Practices.

'Tis ſtrange and moſt ſad, to conſider the corrupt nature of Man, how prone, nay fixt to all kind of Evil, that no Exhortation, no Examples, though ſo numerous here almoſt every month of their fellow-Griminals, can reclaim them. The true reaſon no doubt is expreſſed by the Pſalmiſt, *God is not in all their thoughts*, Fear and Shame are the two great Bridles of humane Nature: But theſe Reſtraints they had long ſince ſhook off,

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and by a ſetled Habit of Debauchery, ſtifled all the Alarms of Conſcience, and quench'd the ſtriving motions of Grace and the Holy Spirit; ſo that they were grown to that Diabolical ſtate, to commit all Wickedneſs with greedineſs, and without any Remorſe: Never awaken'd with any apprehenſions of Religion, or regard to the everlaſting Condition of their precious Souls, till the dreadful Sentence of Death ſummon'd them to give a ſudden amazing Account, for which they were no way prepared; but in a ſtupid Horrour, fill'd with Terrour and Confuſion, were hurried out of the World. A moſt deplorable Caution to all ſuch deſperate Sinners, to turn from the Evil of their ways, whilſt there is yet a door of Hope left open, that they may not be ſurprized with the like Conſternations, when nothing remains before their eyes, but a certain untimely Death in this world, and inevitable Deſtruction in the next.

The common Malefactors were executed at the uſual place and time, firſt Seven and then Five; and not all at once, as heretofore.

But *Chriſtian Woodward* (condemned to be burned at a Stake in *Smithfield*) was not Executed till the afternoon; ſhe having had all the time given her that poſſibly could be granted, to make her applications for a Reprieve. But no Reprieve could be obtained; the Crime being ſo notorious, and the practiſe of it grown ſo frequent.

John Martin, *before mentioned, obtained a Reprieve juſt upon going to Execution.*

FINIS.